

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 9, 2004. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 19-28 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 6, 11, 19, 21, 24, and 26-28 are in independent form. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 6, 11, 19, 21, 24, and 26-28 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly, and Claims 4, 9, 14, and 23 have been amended as to a minor matters of form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 19-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,081,342 (*Nakai et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 19, 21, 24, and 26-28 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a print processing method for executing print processing upon exchanging print information with a device connected via a network. The method includes submitting print information, which has been generated by one device, to another device and starting a print job, inputting a type of failure of the print job to be aborted and a type of failure of the print job to be suspended via an input unit, and detecting whether a failure has occurred on the side of the one device during the submission of the print information. The method also includes determining to abort or suspend processing of

the print job, which is currently being submitted, in accordance with the detection made in the detection step and the types of failures inputted in the input step, and reporting the aborting or suspension of processing to the other device, which receives the print information, as notification of control of the print job in accordance with the determination made. That is, the method allows controlling the print processing, such that when a failure is detected during the submission of a print job, a determination to abort or suspend a print job is based on the types of failures inputted by a user.

Among other important features of Claim 1 are inputting a type of failure of the print job to be aborted and a type of failure of the print job to be suspended via an input unit and determining to abort or suspend processing of the print job, which is currently being submitted, in accordance with the detection made in the detection step and the types of failures inputted in the input step. Support for the input step may be found at least at page 16, lines 5-9, and support for the determination step may be found at least at page 14, lines 7-9.<sup>1</sup>

*Nakai et al.* relates to an image forming system comprising a plurality of image forming apparatuses, such as digital copying machines, interconnected through a transmitting apparatus. The *Nakai et al.* system discusses aborting or suspending an image forming process when trouble occurs in a digital copying machine that issues a store request or requests image processing using a special function. The criteria used to determine to abort or suspend the image forming process is based on a predetermined degree of trouble, serious or

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<sup>1</sup> It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

minor. In contrast, the invention as recited in Claim 1, determines whether to abort or suspend processing of a print job based on the types of failures inputted in the input step.

Accordingly, Applicant has found nothing in *Nakai et al.* that would teach or suggest inputting a type of failure of the print job to be aborted and a type of failure of the print job to be suspended via an input unit and determining to abort or suspend processing of the print job, which is currently being submitted, in accordance with the detection made in the detection step and the types of failures inputted in the input step, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reason, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Nakai et al.*


Independent Claims 6 and 11 are storage medium and apparatus claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Nakai et al.* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Additionally, independent Claims 19, 21, 24, and 26-28 include a feature similar to that discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 19, 21, 24, and 26-28 are believed over *Nakai et al.* for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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